

Members

Rep. Robert Behning, Co-Chairperson
Rep. Rhonda Rhoads
Rep. Lloyd Arnold
Rep. Woody Burton
Rep. Edward Clere
Rep. Dale DeVon
Rep. Todd Huston
Rep. James Lucas
Rep. Jeffrey Thompson
Rep. Vernon Smith
Rep. Kreg Battles
Rep. Sue Errington
Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh
Sen. Dennis Kruse, Co-Chairperson
Sen. Carlin Yoder
Sen. James Banks
Sen. James Buck
Sen. Luke Kenley
Sen. Jean Leising
Sen. Pete Miller
Sen. Scott Schneider
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. John Broden
Sen. Frank Mrvan
Sen. Greg Taylor

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COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 28, 2013
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Rep. Robert Behning, Co-Chairperson; Rep. Rhonda Rhoads; Rep. Lloyd Arnold; Rep. Woody Burton; Rep. Edward Clere; Rep. Dale DeVon; Rep. Todd Huston; Rep. James Lucas; Rep. Jeffrey Thompson; Rep. Vernon Smith; Rep. Sue Errington; Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh; Sen. Dennis Kruse, Co-Chairperson; Sen. Carlin Yoder; Sen. James Buck; Sen. Luke Kenley; Sen. Pete Miller; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Greg Taylor.

Members Absent: Rep. Kreg Battles; Sen. James Banks; Sen. Jean Leising; Sen. Scott Schneider; Sen. John Broden; Sen. Frank Mrvan.

Co-Chairperson Behning called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and called upon the

¹ These minutes, exhibits, and other materials referenced in the minutes can be viewed electronically at <http://www.in.gov/legislative>. Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies.

members to introduce themselves. He then asked Rep. Huston, House sponsor of SEA 189 - 2013, to briefly explain the bill. Rep. Huston indicated that the bill was designed to provide flexibility to school corporations that perform at high levels of accountability.

Brian Smith, Superintendent, Hamilton Southeastern School Corporation, thanked the General Assembly for passing SEA 189. He stated that there is a false impression that dual credit courses are not as rigorous as Advanced Placement (AP) classes. While the Department of Education (DoE) provides recognition for school corporations and students who complete AP classes, there is no equivalent recognition provided for dual credit course completion. Dr. Smith asked that there be more flexibility in the use of dual credit courses to satisfy the requirements for academic honors diplomas. He would also ask for more flexibility in school day length to accommodate individual students who might be taking several dual credit courses. In addition, he suggested pilot programs to explore flexibility options for middle and elementary schools.

John O'Neal, Indiana State Teachers Association, expressed concerns with restricting calendar flexibility to high performing schools, as low performing schools could also benefit from flexibility. He also brought up issues concerning the lack of guidance for the State Board of Education in conducting the waiver process for schools that are not high performing to qualify for flexibility, and the lack of clarity as to how schools will monitor educational activities that take place outside the classroom.

Janice Malchow, a retired school administrator representing Learning Forward Indiana, discussed the importance of professional learning for teachers in improving schools and student outcomes.

Frank Bush, Indiana School Boards Association, stated that his association supported SEA 189 - 2013 during the legislative session. He stated that based on 2012's ISTEP assessments, ten school corporations would qualify as high performing school districts.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on September 13, 2013. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.